

From that initial foundation at Cornell, the core Alpha Phi Alpha principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity were established. Alpha Phi Alpha now has a presence on hundreds of college campuses as well as in hundreds of alumni chapters in 44 States. The presence is also felt here in Washington, where nine members of the U.S. Congress are members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

In 1991, an agreement was entered into between Alpha Phi Alpha and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to unite their efforts to transform communities and the lives of young African Americans. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha have become thoroughly engaged in recruiting volunteers, and cultivating a positive relationship and experience with their Little Brothers.

The brothers of Beta Gamma continue this proud tradition by proactively engaging the Petersburg community's schools and families, in addition providing one-on-one youth mentoring for children at-risk of slipping through the cracks of our society. Studies show that the regular presence of a responsible adult provides lasting, positive impacts on the life of a child. Those children mentored by the Big Brothers of Beta Gamma chapter will be less likely to use drugs and alcohol, will perform better in school, and will have healthier family relationships.

Today, I rise to recognize these young gentlemen for their genuine concern for their local community and for their dedication to public service.

#### RECOGNIZING CAKES BY HAPPY EATERY

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a sign of recovery and reinvestment in our nation's economy. On November 19, 2009, "Cakes by Happy Eatery" opens its doors for business in Manassas, Virginia.

This family-owned business was established in 1986 as the "Happy Eatery Restaurant and Bakery." It previously operated in Alexandria, Virginia as a traditional Chinese restaurant with an in-house bakery for 17 years. In 2002, the business moved to a location in Centreville, Virginia and became "Cakes by Happy Eatery." During this move, the family decided to undergo more than just a name and location change. They also transformed the business model and focused all of their talents and efforts on becoming a full-service bakery.

This has proven to be a successful business decision. The family's recipes and catering services have been well received and the business has outgrown its Centreville location. The new Manassas location will expand the family's services and responsibilities. The matriarch, Mrs. Fu-Mei Wu, will act as the chief quality control manager. Mrs. Wu's daughters will continue to be involved in the bakery's everyday business. Victoria Wu will oversee daily operations. Charlotte Wu Homme will handle advertising and Emily Wu-Rorrer will continue to create the popular bakery's new products.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Wu family for creating jobs by opening a new "Cakes by Happy Eatery" location. I admire the Wu family for their hard work, and I hope for their continued success.

#### HONORING SIMON HUGHES

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently the Texas record for the largest gator killed on state property was broken by 110 pounds. The new state record stands at 800 pounds and 12-foot-6-inches. The remarkable thing is that the shooter, Simon Hughes, had only a year of experience under his belt. Even more remarkable was that the shooter is a five year old from Goodrich Texas, near Lake Livingston.

Simon Hughes is the son of Scott Hughes a sixth generation rancher also from East Texas. Mr. Scott Hughes was reasonably worried that something "real big was out there" and driving smaller gators into his stock ponds. He then obtained a state permit to kill the alligators populating his 5,000 acre ranch near the Lake. Mr. Hughes also took his son, a mere first grader, along for a hunt seeing as he already had been taught gun safety since he was "big enough to walk and stand in a deer blind." When the gator came upon Simon, he screamed "holy moly," and shot the beast that was twenty times his size with his new junior-sized .410-gauge shotgun.

Madam Speaker, in true cowboy fashion Simon wants the world to know that he was never afraid for a second. Texas commends Simon for his bravery and outstanding accuracy at such a young age.

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN FOSTER AND SENATOR JOYCE FOSTER

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished couple in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, Rabbi Steven Foster and State Senator Joyce Foster. Rabbi Foster has announced that he will retire in June 2010 after four decades at Denver's Temple Emanuel, the oldest Jewish congregation in Colorado. On this occasion, I rise to pay tribute to the Fosters and to their exceptional service to our community and our world.

The Fosters moved to Denver in 1970, when Rabbi Foster accepted his first position as an ordained rabbi at Temple Emanuel after receiving degrees in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Together they have raised three children and have made Denver a better place for all its residents.

The first Temple Emanuel with which Rabbi Foster was affiliated was in his hometown of Milwaukee, where he grew up attending the

synagogue during the emerging civil rights movement. By the time of his bar mitzvah, he was determined he would become a rabbi. As a senior in college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he traveled to Alabama to walk in the historic Freedom March led by Dr. Martin Luther King to the state capitol in Montgomery. His actions marked a lifelong commitment to social justice.

Rabbi Foster has been an activist for social justice, an advocate for interfaith outreach, and a spiritual leader to the thousands of Temple Emanuel congregants. Rabbi Foster's work has included founding the Temple Emanuel Preschool and Kindergarten, Herzl Day School, and Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me, an outreach program for interfaith families. He has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, National Council of Justice and Peace, United Way, and Allied Jewish Federation, to name just a few.

Rabbi Foster has taken on all these tasks while also tirelessly devoting himself to the spiritual needs of his flock. Never reticent to speak out and take action on social issues, Rabbi Foster has worked assiduously against the death penalty and for racial equality, reproductive rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In the words of Rabbi Foster, "Either we are all created in God's image, or we're not." Temple Emanuel's largest community service project, Mitzvah Day, embodies Rabbi Foster and Temple Emanuel's commitment to social justice, as hundreds of families go into the Denver community and perform good deeds.

Joyce Foster grew up in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She was educated at Lake Michigan College and Roosevelt University and Northwestern University in Chicago, where she met Rabbi Foster. In 1977, she began a 16-year career at Jewish Family Service in Denver, where, as Director of Employment Services, she worked with many refugees from the former Soviet Union and Pacific Rim countries. In 1993, she ran for Denver City Council. Upon her election, she became the first Jewish woman to sit on the Council. She subsequently spent 10 years representing District 4 and served as Council President during 2001–2002. As a Councilwoman and Council President, she was a leader on transportation, land use issues, and regional cooperation between the City and its surrounding suburbs. She represented Denver on the Denver Regional Council of Governments Board, and developed close working relationships with other cities and counties, business and transportation organizations, and state agencies such as the Colorado Department of Transportation. One of her signature accomplishments was working with Denver middle and high school students to help build a skate park in downtown Denver, which helped reduce crime and benefited the community by providing an after-school activity for young people.

After retiring from the Denver City Council, in 2008 Joyce Foster was elected to represent her community as Senate Senator for Colorado's District 35. As a State Senator, Joyce Foster has been a champion for access to health care as a basic human right and for high-quality education for all children. Named by Denver's 5280 magazine as one of four Colorado "Freshman Legislators to Watch," Senator Foster has earned a reputation as a savvy legislator who reaches across the aisle to serve the public good.

On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District, I wish to express our gratitude to Rabbi Steven Foster and Senator Joyce Foster. Through their commitment to public service and social justice, they have made our community a better place. We look forward the continued involvement of this remarkable couple in our civic life. Please join me in commending these distinguished public servants.

HONORING MRS. DEBBIE SPERO  
FOR RECEIVING THE JOHN  
CAMPANIUS HOLM AWARD

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Debbie Spero, recipient of the 2009 John Campanius Holm Award.

Each year, the National Weather Service honors Cooperative Weather Observers with this prestigious award, named after John Holm. During the years 1644 and 1645, Holm recorded observations of the local weather twice a day, and he is the first known person to have kept these observations.

Since September 1, 1985, Debbie Spero has been involved with the NWS Cooperative Observer Program in Bethpage, Tennessee, reporting daily weather and precipitation data to the Army Corps of Engineers. Her reports are used to document the climate of Middle Tennessee and are also used by local NWS officials to verify forecasts, warnings and precipitation patterns.

Through her 24 year involvement, Debbie has been an incredibly reliable observer. Her observations are complete and in near real time. When she has been unable to make her observations because of illness or travel, she has enlisted help to ensure as few breaks in the record as possible.

In her spare time, Debbie is an active community member. As a Girl Scout leader for more than 14 years, her troop has helped serve underprivileged girls in the Bethpage area by meeting with them weekly. Debbie also works as a Youth Leader at Grace Baptist Church and has served as President of the Bethpage Parent Teacher Organization.

Each year, the John Campanius Holm award is given to only 25 Cooperative Observers from more than 11,000 in the program. The award is based on complete and accurate observations, outstanding enthusiasm for imparting observational knowledge, and civic involvement in the community. The award is only given to active observers of more than 20 years.

Debbie, thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving your community. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT  
HAMID KARZAI

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman of the Afghanistan

Caucus, I want to congratulate President Hamid Karzai on his inauguration for a second term in Afghanistan. In his speech, I am pleased President Karzai stated that he is committed to tackling corruption and restoring security in his nation.

I support the position of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who attended the inauguration, that President Karzai has his chance to "have accountability and tangible results that will improve the lives of the people." In my nine visits to Afghanistan, I have learned of the dedication of Defense Minister Abdul Raheem Wardak and Interior Minister Haneef Atmar. I know firsthand of the capabilities of the Afghan police and army units, who were trained by my former National Guard unit, the 218th Brigade led by Brigadier General Bob Livingston, 2007–2008, of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

It is vitally important that in order for Afghanistan to turn the corner, the U.S. must do everything promised to the people of Afghanistan to provide for a secure and stable society. We must grant the necessary resources with our NATO allies to President Karzai to get the job done.

I was grateful to learn last night at a dinner with Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution that Slovakia is doubling its troop commitment in Afghanistan. Slovakia is a revered partner of America promoting freedom and democracy.

CONGRATULATING TURKEY AND  
ARMENIA FOR THEIR STEPS  
TOWARDS PEACE

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, last month in Zurich, Switzerland, with the strong support of the United States, the foreign ministers of Turkey and Armenia took an unprecedented step forward in their efforts to overcome decades of animosity and distrust between their two countries.

Almost before the ink was dry special interest groups in both countries and abroad who profit from the status quo were attacking the deal which means that there are still immense hurdle left before Turkey and Armenia full normalize diplomatic and bilateral relations. Nevertheless, the two protocols offering a "road map" signed on October 10, 2009, is the right course of action for both countries. The process is very fragile, but enjoys the support of the international community.

The protocols have been submitted to the Turkish and Armenian parliaments for debate and ratification. The stage is now set for the two parliaments to both deliberate the contents of and hopefully pass the protocols. It will not be an easy vote but the political, economic and international benefits for both sides are enormous; that is if Turks and Armenians are willing to take the chance for real peace; and willing to give up business as usual.

For years I have come to this Floor advocating that issues concerning Turkey and Armenia should be resolved at the negotiating table by the two countries in question. I urge my colleagues to strongly support this process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN RE-  
NEWABLE WATER SUPPLY BOND  
ACT OF 2009

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act of 2009 with Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE. This legislation would authorize public water agencies to issue tax credit bonds as a financing vehicle for certain innovative new water supply technologies.

Drought, global climate change, population growth, and increased competition for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs have combined to create potential water shortages of crisis proportions in the decades ahead unless Congress acts quickly to invest in new, alternative water supply facilities.

Fresh water is a limited resource in high demand. Population growth continues to strain available and quickly diminishing water supplies, leading to a growing need for new investments in water supply and treatment facility projects. The U.S. General Accounting Office has stated that even under normal water conditions, 36 States anticipate water shortages in the next 10 years.

However, innovative technologies exist that can help provide new sources of clean water while helping to improve the environment. While the costs of these technologies continue to decline, the initial capital expenditures required to build their infrastructure is still too high to use conventional financing mechanisms. A deeper subsidy is needed and can be achieved through the use of tax credit bonds.

This legislation would authorize the use of tax credit bonds, Clean Renewable Water Supply bonds, or "CREWS", to finance certain kinds of innovative water supply facilities. These facilities include water-recycling facilities, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination projects. These CREWS bonds would be issued by public water agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds would result in an interest-free loan to the water agency. Instead of the agency having to make interest payments to the bondholders, as would be the case with conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds, the Federal Government would provide the bondholders with a tax credit equal to what the interest payments would have been. Under the proposal, the agency would save over \$60 million in interest payments on a \$100 million water supply project, which is the type of subsidy necessary to offset the upfront capital expenditure.

Working with Representative BROWN-WAITE, I hope this Congress moves with all due speed to consider and pass this vital legislation. Let me also take this opportunity to invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this bill that takes concrete action to address our nation's future water needs.